

What is Claimed is:

1. An intravaginal device for feminine hygiene, wherein the intravaginal device comprises a core which is completely surrounded by a sheathing that is impervious to liquid water.

2. The intravaginal device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the core comprises compressed fibrous material.

3. The intravaginal device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the fibrous material consists of natural and/or synthetic fibers.

4. The intravaginal device as claimed in claim 3, wherein the fibrous material consists of smooth fibers and/or profiled fibers.

5. The intravaginal device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the fibrous material has at least partially hydrophilic properties.

6. The intravaginal device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sheathing is at least partially fastened on the surface of the core consisting of pressed fibrous material.

7. The intravaginal device as claimed in claim 6, wherein the sheathing is fastened on the core by means of a contact adhesive.

8. The intravaginal device as claimed in claim 6, wherein the sheathing is heat-sealed to the core.

10. The intravaginal device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sheathing has a MVTR of at least about 3000 g/m² / 24 h.

11. The intravaginal device as claimed in claim 10, wherein the sheathing has a MVTR of greater than about 4000 g/m² / 24 h.

12. The intravaginal device as claimed in claim 1, wherein one surface of the sheathing is continuously closed and smooth.

13. The intravaginal device as claimed in claim 1, wherein one surface of the sheathing is at least partially roughened.

14. The intravaginal device as claimed in claim 13, wherein the roughened surface of the sheathing is embossed.

15. The intravaginal device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sheathing comprises at least one plastic film layer.

16. The intravaginal device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sheathing comprises at least one nonwoven layer.

17. The intravaginal device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sheathing comprises a layer of wax.

18. The intravaginal device as claimed in one claim 1, wherein the sheathing comprises at least two layers of material which at least partially lie one on top of the other and are bonded to one another.

19. The intravaginal device as claimed in claim 18, wherein two layers of material are present, one of the two layers of material being a roughened layer and the

other of the two layers of material being impermeable to liquid water.

20. The intravaginal device as claimed in claim 19, wherein the roughened layer forms an outer surface and the liquid water-impermeable layer forms an inner surface of the sheathing.

21. The intravaginal device as claimed in claim 19, wherein the roughened layer is a layer of nonwoven material.

22. The intravaginal device as claimed in claim 19, wherein the liquid-impermeable layer is a film of plastic.

23. The intravaginal device as claimed in claim 16, wherein one surface of the layer of nonwoven material has a layer of wax disposed thereon.

24. The intravaginal device as claimed in claim 18, wherein two layers of material are present, the two layers of material being films of plastic, one of the two films of plastic of the sheathing being a perforated film provided with holes having edges which are frayed on one side of the film of plastic.

25. The intravaginal device as claimed in claim 24, wherein the side of the perforated film of plastic (44) which has the frayed edges of holes forms an outer surface of the sheathing (40).

26. The intravaginal device as claimed in claim 11, wherein the sheathing comprises an at least partially microporous layer.

27. The intravaginal device as claimed in claim 11, wherein the sheathing comprises an at least partially microperforated layer.

5 28. The intravaginal device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the sheathing comprises a three-layers.

29. The intravaginal device as claimed in claim 28, wherein two outer-lying layers comprise about 70% polypropylene, about 30% polyethylene and their proportion by weight is 25% of the sheathing in each case, while a middle layer comprises about 70% polypropylene and about 30% ethylene vinyl acetate with a proportion by weight of 50% of the sheathing.

30. The intravaginal device as claimed in claim 29, wherein the microperforated has a pattern of holes layer has an open area of about 25 to about 40%, a center-to-center spacing of the holes of about 0.8 to about 1.2 mm and the holes having a diameter of about 0.65 to about 0.85 mm.

20 31. The intravaginal device as claimed in claim 16, wherein the nonwoven material is of a multilayered form.

32. The intravaginal device as claimed in claim 28, wherein a first layer of material comprises polypropylene fiber, a second layer of material comprises a mixture of
25 about 50% polyethylene terephthalate (PET) and about 50% rayon fibers, and a third layer of material comprises polypropylene fiber.

33. The intravaginal device as claimed claim 1, wherein the intravaginal device is capable of radial expansion to at least about 120% of an original diameter of the intravaginal device in an unexpanded state after exposure to 95% relative humidity for 240 minutes at room temperature.

34. The intravaginal device as claimed claim 33, wherein the intravaginal device is capable of radial expansion to at least about 120% of an original diameter of the intravaginal device in an unexpanded state after exposure to 95% relative humidity for 240 minutes at room temperature.

35. The intravaginal device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the intravaginal device has a length of about 55 to about 60 mm and a diameter of about 19 to about 32 mm.

36. The intravaginal device of claim 1, wherein the intravaginal device is sized to provide support to a user's urinary system.

37. The intravaginal device of claim 36 which is substantially cylindrical.

38. The intravaginal device of claim 36 which is substantially ovoid.

39. The intravaginal device of claim 36 which is substantially spherical.

40. The intravaginal device of claim 1 which further comprises a receptacle portion for collecting bodily discharges.

41. The intravaginal device as claimed in claim 1, wherein intravaginal device has an axial compressive resistance is about 30 to about 60 N under an axial compression of 1 cm.

5 42. The intravaginal device as claimed in claim 41, wherein intravaginal device has an axial compressive resistance is about 35 to about 45 N under an axial compression of 1 cm.

10 43. The intravaginal device as claimed in claim 1, wherein an insertion end of the device is tapered conically.